

УДК 82-1/-9; 821.512.162

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## ATTITUDE OF MUHAMMED TAGI SIDGI TO PRESS AND HIS PRESS PUBLICATIONS

*It is impossible to imagine the literary activity of M.T. Sidgi, one of the prominent figures in the history of Azerbaijani literary-cultural, public opinion, without the press. The attitude of a prominent educator to the press, his work in the development of press is remarkable. M.T. wrote about the press: "Today, the first head of science and education is the newspaper". Mohammed Tagi Sidgi is one of the writers who have a high regard for the press. A number of Azerbaijani intellectuals have made valuable comments about the press and have appreciated its role in human life. Mohammed Tagi Sidgi also has some interesting ideas about the press. His article, "Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?" ("What is a newspaper?") can provide enough material to clarify the writer's views on the subject. Here are some points attracting attention from the article:*

- 1. Thoughts that are manifestations of regret of M.T. Sidgi in order to careless attitude to press in his life.*
- 2. Provide dictionary-level information about the newspaper.*
- 3. Summary of Mohammed Tagi Sidgi's views on the press.*

*One of the remarkable points in the article is providing dictionary character information in the article "Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?" (What is newspaper?). Muhammad Tagi Sidgi shows that the "Qazet" (newspaper) is a lexical unit of Greek origin and the name of a coin previously used in Greece that Five geese was one dirham, and one goose in Iran was five dinars. Mohammed Tagi Sidgi wrote this article with anxiety as a sign of protest against the conflict between the three scholars.*

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*Mohammed Tagi Sidgi is a quiet, modest man, and has paid special attention to the peace of the people.*

**Key words:** *Mohammed Tagi Sidgi, literary, intellect, newspaper, publication.*

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## СТАВЛЕННЯ МУХАММЕДА ТАГІ СІДГІ ДО ПРЕСИ ТА ЙОГО ПУБЛІКАЦІЇ У ПРЕСІ

*Неможливо уявити літературну діяльність М. Т. Сідгі, одного з визначних діячів історії азербайджанської літературно-культурної та громадської думки, без преси. Досить примітне ставлення видатного педагога до преси, його робота з її розвитку. Мухаммед Тагі писав про пресу: «Сьогодні першим керівником науки та освіти є газета». Мухаммед Тагі Сідгі – один із письменників, які шанують пресу. Деякі представники азербайджанської інтелігенції зробили цінні коментарі щодо преси та оцінили її роль у житті людини.*

*У Мухаммеда Тагі Сідгі також є кілька цікавих ідей щодо преси. Його стаття «Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?» («Що таке газета?») Може надати досить матеріалів для уточнення поглядів письменника на цю тему. Ось деякі моменти, що привертають увагу зі статті:*

- 1. Думки, які є проявом жалю М. Т. Сідгі про небале ставлення до преси у своєму житті.*
- 2. Надайте відомості на рівні словника про газету.*
- 3. Короткий огляд поглядів Мухаммеда Тагі Сідгі на пресу.*

*Одним із визначних моментів статті є надання інформації про словникові символи у статті «Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?» (Що таке газета?). Мухаммед Тагі Сідгі показує, що «Казет» (газета) – це лексична одиниця*

грецького походження, а назва монети, що раніше використовувалася в Греції, п'ять гусей – один дирхам, а один гусь в Ірані – п'ять динарів. Мухаммед Тагі Сідгі написав цю статтю з тривогою на знак протесту проти конфлікту між трьома вченими.

Мохамед Тагі Сідгі називає газету «добрим другом» і «солодкою балаканиною». Він показує, що газета – це милосердний супутник удень, відданий супутник у святкові дні, а також досвідчений, всесвітньо відомий вчений, який довгими ночами розважає світовими новинами. Мухаммед Тагі Сідгі – тиха, скромна людина, що особливу увагу приділяє спокою людей.

**Ключові слова:** Мухаммед Тагі Сідгі, література, інтелект, газета, видання.

**Introduction.** In the life of Muhammed Tagi Sidgi, there was no high regard for the press, and there were very few newspaper readers because of lack of awareness. This was one of the problems that concerned and disturbed the intellectuals of the time. Muhammad Tagi Sidgi wrote about this: “Are there any people who have become accustomed to reading the newspaper and have achieved it? They are also treated with a strange look. Some is called khan, some is called bek. this is servant, this is teacher...” (Sidqi, 2004a: 164). He tells that this is the reason why the population has turned away from the newspaper.

Sidgi said that there is a great contradiction between the internal and external world of those who do not react to the newspaper. So, on the one hand, they think it is offensive to read a newspaper, in the other hand, “Use newspaper clippings politely to draw the listener's attention during the conversation” (Sidqi, 2004b: 164).

**Discussion.** One of the remarkable points in the article is providing dictionary character information in the article “Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?” (What is newspaper?). Muhammad Tagi Sidgi shows that the “Qazet” (newspaper) is a lexical unit of Greek origin and the name of a coin previously used in Greece that Five geese was one dirham, and one goose in Iran was five dinars. The writer explains how it is understood in the newspaper: “In summary, some scholars in Greece at the time, including well-known writers such as Xenophon and Priglisen, wrote their writings on leaflets made from leaves of a papyrus tree and then sent it to their followers and imitators. In the end, those pages became known as “qazet”, “qazeta” and “qazetin”. It means, a sheet for a goose price” (Sidqi, 2004c: 166). The author also states that the first newspaper was published in France in 1631.

The most disturbing aspects of Mohammed Tagi Sidgi are:

1. “God, I wonder, when will we understand the value and benefits of newspaper?”

2. “When will we fly in the air of this airplane leaflet?” (Sharif, 1957: 168).

In his article “Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?”, Mohammed Tagi Sidgi put forth an urgent and never-ending view of the newspaper.

Finally, Mohamed Tagi Sidgi calls the newspaper a “good friend” and “sweet talker”. He shows that the newspaper is a merciful, compassionate companion during the daytime, a devoted companion during the holidays, an experienced, world-renowned scientist who entertains with world news for long nights.

Mohammed Tagi Sidgi writes at the end of the article “Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?”: “Now, dear brothers, dear friends! It is time of manliness, opportunity. We should not be ignorant, let's love science, let's get out of ignorance...”. And the writer shows the best way to do this and repeats it three times: “... Let's read the newspaper! Let's read the newspaper! Let's read the newspaper! Let's read the newspaper! Let's read the newspaper!” (Sidqi, 2004d: 171). The end of the work is reminiscent of Jalil Mammadguluzade's publicist style. Thus, Mirza Jalil in his article “Azerbaijan” in the current issue says three times “homeland, language and nation”: “The world and the world have changed, and the meanings have changed, that is, in our language, those things which have lost their true meaning, have returned and found their origin” (Mammadguluzadeh, 2004: 4).

Mohammed Tagi Sidgi's article “Qazet, yaxud qəzetə nədir?” is still relevant. məqaləsi indi də öz əhəmiyyətini itirməmişdir. Having said that “The nation's ignorance medicine is science and education”, the writer considered press an important tool for the promotion of education.

Two articles in the publicist creations of Mohammed Tagi Sighi are highlighted. One of them is called “Regret, again regret”.

Mohammed Tagi Sidqi wrote this article with anxiety as a sign of protest against the conflict between the three scholars. For example, Kaspi newspaper editor Alimardan bay and the editor of the “Sharqi-Rus” newspaper Mohammad aga Shahtakhtli and Ahmed Agaoglu published articles against each other in the press “outside of their professions” in the words of Mohammed Tagi Sidji. In fact, the reason for these writings was the publication of the works of Muhammad Aga Shahtakht in 1903–1904, which criticized Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev. Alimardan bay who praised Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev, wrote articles against Muhammad Aga Shahtakhtli in return.

According to J. Mammadguluzadeh, in the early 1900s, cold relations between the prominent intellectuals of Azerbaijan, Mohammad aga Shahtakhtli, Alimardan

bay Topchubashov, and Ahmed Agaoglu resulted in the closure of newspaper “Sharqi-Rus”. At the same time, Topchubashov and Agaev considered pen war against Shahtakhtiasan attempt to show loyalty to H.Z. Taghiyev”. (Encyclopedia of Jalil Mamadguluzadeh, 2008: 286). The intellectuals, concerned about the cold relations and misunderstandings between the parties, commented on the matter. One of these intellectuals was Muhammad Tagi Sidqi.

The literature shows that such disputes, struggle and judgments are “absurd and unreasonable and unnatural” (Rustamova, 2004: 5). And all of this is displeasing to writers who have good conscience and who love the media world.

Mohammed Tagi Sidqi is a quiet, modest man, and has paid special attention to the peace of the people. Jalil Mammadguluzadeh wrote: “The personality of the deceased was unprecedented: patient, believing, faithful, quiet, happy, compassionate and benevolent. The beautiful features of Sidqi made him the subject of sayings in Nakhchivan. Our community has never shown that respect and love to anyone. The deceased were friends of the Mullahs, Sayyids, Khans, Asnaf and porters” (Guliyev, 2004: 3). Such features of Mohammed Tagi Sidqi also appear in his article “Təəssüf, yənə təəssüf” (Regret, again regret). The following comments of the author are exemplary: “...In today’s society where so many things are possible, the question of peace is born in society. Let’s make peace, what is the need for battle and hostility?” (Sidqi, 2004e: 172).

Mohammed Tagi Sidqi’s article “Təəssüf, yənə təəssüf” firstly refers to Mohammedaga Shahtakhtly. The author calls him a “friend of education” and lists his services. There are so many correct and objective ideas in the article that a reader who does not know about three major intellectuals mentioned above can readily identify them. For example, Muhammad Tagi Sidqi’s comments about Mohamedaga Shahtakhti can be summarized as follows:

- Master of Science and Literature;
- A man who had never gone beyond science and literature;
- A man who is always on travel, thanks to the natural inclination and passion for enlightenment and education;
- A man familiar with several Eastern and Western languages and etc.

These ideas of the author are useful for our modern age and for all time. Indeed, press pages should not be filled with articles about personal relationships.

Mohammed Tagi Sidqi in his article “Təəssüf, yənə təəssüf” lists Alimardan Topchubashov’s merits:

- A man who has been working hard for years and studying science and perfection;

- “A person who is far from any personal gain”;
- “Supporting science and education and literature lovers”;
- A man who has worked for the head of the Kaspi newspaper for many years, and responded all fake news as state person;
- The amateur of science;
- The founder of education;
- The man who sees the newspaper as a means of culture;
- A man who is involved in the organization of several Russian and Muslim schools and etc (Khudiyev, 2005: 68).

Mohammed Tagi summarizes his thoughts on Alimardan bek: “We will never forget your donations to every charitable organization. It is clear that the more Turkish-language newspapers such as “Şərqi-Rus” are published, you will be the most joyful of all” (Sidqi, 2004f: 175–176).

The third person addressed by Muhammad Tagi Sidqi is Ahmed bey Agaoglu (1869–1939). He is a well-known public figure, editor of the “Hayat” newspaper together with A. Huseynzade in 1905, one of the most active figures in the struggle for national freedom in Azerbaijan in 1905–1908, professor of Istanbul and Ankara universities, the editor-in-chief of the “Tərcümani-həqiqət”, “Gənc türk”, “Hakimiyyətimaliyyə”. Mohammed Tagi Sidqi considers the lines coming out of Ahmed bey Agaoglu’s pen as a mercy for our enlightenment. He resembles his articles to admonition mirror, his books to manliness poems and values it as a person who is leading the nation in education and culture, morals and humanity.

Apart from this article, Mohammed Tagi also mentioned the same issue in one of his letters to Mohammad aga Shahtakhtli. This letter, which is slightly larger than the other letters of the writer, was originally written in honor of the accession of the “Şərqi-Rus” newspaper to the press world. But here’s the reaction to the unfair criticism of Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev “In the eyes of educated people, your newspaper has nothing wrong. The newspaper is loved. But everyone is talking about your thoughts about Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev. No one looks at them with a good look. His generosity in writing these short words cannot be denied. Now they speak these words in Nakhchivan and then in other cities” (Sidqi, 2004h: 191). From that letter, it is clear that why do our newspapers unreasonably want to prove Taghiyev’s evil, even if the newspaper “Həblülmətin”, “Ədəb”, “Müzəffəri” have written about Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev’s initiatives, charity, generosity and goodness? He worries about this issue, and he wants to avoid Mohammad Aga writing articles on

the criticism of Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev. Because, “Mr. Taghiyev was originally generous and good”. That is why Mohammed Tagi writes in his letter to Mohammad aga Shahtakhti: “If I were with you at the time of writing criticism about Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev, I would beg you and not let to publish it” (Sidqi, 2004i: 192).

**Conclusions.** “Sidqi took part in the performance of M.F. Akhundov’s comedies in Nakhchivan in

1883 with the help of young theater lovers. At the same time, he contacted thinkers in other Azerbaijani cities, regularly received newspapers and magazines from Russia and abroad, and educated local people” (Khalilov, 2010:1).

Thus, Mohammed Tagi Sidqi has played a significant role in the education, culture and press of Azerbaijan, in the development of children’s literature in Azerbaijan.

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